



Bellingham Bells

A history of Bellingham's semi-pro baseball team.
See Story, Page 10.

B-town's hip-hop scene

Hip-hop is more than just music, it's a culture.
See Story, Page 8.



FRIDAY, June 7, 2002

The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 121 Issue 18

Bellingham, Washington

Olympic Co., Shell fined \$7.86 million for explosion

By Courtney Howard
THE WESTERN FRONT

Frank King said the Department of Ecology should use a portion of the \$7.86 million it levied in fines against Olympic Pipe Line Co. and Shell Pipeline Co. on Wednesday to build a baseball complex.

King's son, Wade, was one of the three boys who died in Bellingham's Olympic Pipe Line explosion in June 1999. Stephen Tsiorvas and Liam Wood also died as a result of the accident.

"I think it would maybe be nice if the Department of Ecology did something in Bellingham - if they used part of the money to memorialize those three boys that died," King said.

Sheryl Hutchison, Department of Ecology communications director, said the department decided to levy the maximum \$7.86 million after Olympic, Shell and IMCO General Construction Co. would not agree on a joint settlement.

This fine is the largest fine the department has ever levied, Hutchison said.

IMCO is being investigated because Olympic officials said an IMCO worker damaged the pipeline. The Department of

See PIPELINE Page 4



Ailey Kato/ The Western Front

Cassandra Barker and Breanna Perry, both 11 years old, take off running in one of many games they play in the Girls on the Run program at Bloedel Donovan Park. Barker said she likes running because it builds up her muscles.

Western women teach girls self-confidence

By Ailey Kato
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western graduate Leslie Pullen said she gained self-confidence and decided she did not care what other people thought about her while she

was at college. During middle and high school, she said she had the same body image issues as many girls do: hair, weight and acne.

"I want to give so much positive attitude, like you are OK the way you are and self-confi-

dence," Pullen said.

She said self-confidence is not something she can give, but is something she wants to teach younger girls.

Pullen and Western junior Megna Patel coach one group of four girls in the Girls on the Run

program every Tuesday and Thursday at Bloedel Donovan Park.

Girls on the Run is a nationwide program founded in 1996 by Molly Barker, a four-time Ironman triathlete.

See RUN, Page 4

Forensic artist uses talent to help track criminals

By Leah Hadfield
THE WESTERN FRONT

The role of artists in the community goes beyond murals and art shows.

Bellingham resident Ellen Brown is a forensic artist who is using her ability to help track criminals.

Brown drew the police sketches of the suspect who assaulted several women in May on Western's campus. University Police Assistant Chief David Doughty said an arrest in Mount Vernon led UP to the suspect.

Doughty said the booking photo of the captured suspect was similar to Brown's drawings.

Brown works with victims and witnesses to create an image of the suspect. She said she asks the witness broad questions about the suspect's appearance, but she only draws what the wit-

ness describes.

"If the witness tells me that there's a mole (on his nose), then that's where I draw it," Brown said.

Doughty said the more distinguishing characteristics a witness can supply, the more accurate the drawing.

The most important aspect of interviewing a witness for a composite drawing is a comfortable setting, Brown said. She said the process involves a lot of listening and patience.

"In actuality, it doesn't take long to do the sketch, but it can seem like it is taking hours," Brown said.

Bellingham Police Sgt. Colin Emmett said sketch artists are used in cases that involve a crime against a person.

Emmett said the police would not use a forensic artist to draw a car thief because the crime involves property. If a person



Leah Hadfield/ The Western Front

Forensic artist Ellen Brown uses the FBI facial identification catalog to draw a woman's face. Brown drew the police sketches for the suspect of the assaults at Western.

robbed a bank, the crime is against a person and property, so a forensic artist would be used, he said.

Certain cases require the

forensic artist to create several drawings. Doughty said the artist does individual composites for each witness.

See ARTIST, Page 4

Provost suggests new college

By Leah Hadfield
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western Provost Andrew Bodman released his third and final recommendation for academic restructuring to President Karen Morse on Monday. His proposal calls for retaining the College of Fine and Performing Arts and creating a College of Sciences and Technology and a College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

In his latest report, Bodman said he based his recommendation on input from faculty, students and staff.

Jeffrey Gilliam, associate professor of music, said students in

See REORGANIZE, Page 4.

COPS BOX

University Police

June 4, 10:36 p.m.: UP reported a computer monitor missing from the Higginson Hall computer lab.

June 4, 3:45 p.m.: UP investigated a suspicious odor reported in Birnam Wood. The odor was determined to be marijuana. No suspects were found.

June 3, 4:51 p.m.: UP responded to a report of a sick or injured deer on the east side of the Old Main and Environmental Studies buildings. When the deer was located, it was reported up and walking.

June 3, 6:49 a.m.: UP responded to an elevator alarm in Wilson Library. A staff member was stuck in the south elevator. Officers opened the elevator and freed the staff member.

Bellingham Police

June 3, 4:31 p.m.: Officers responded to complaints of a shot fired in the 2800 block of Verona Street. A 20-year-old male was arrested and booked into Whatcom County Jail.

June 3, 10:30 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a missing person in the 3500 block of Northwest Avenue.

June 1, 11:35 p.m.: Officers responded to the 1500 block of 22nd Street to investigate complaints of a loud party. Two men were cited for disorderly conduct and for violation of the noise ordinance.

Compiled by Bobbie Egan

Viking Voices

Should Major League Baseball players be tested for steroids?

Compiled by Sarah Warren



Stuart Smith
Marketing major

'Yes. The fact that they don't test creates an environment where those who do not want to take steroids are forced to take them to compete.'



Misty Hakola
Business major

'Yes, they should because it is an unfair advantage to the other players who don't use steroids.'



Sean Carr
Cultural anthropology major

'I think they should be tested. They test for other drugs including steroids in other sports, so why would baseball be an exception?'

Online poll results: 60 percent of 20 voters said testing should definitely be done, 30 percent said it should not be done at all and 10 percent were undecided.

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AP WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

STATE NEWS

High school student pleads guilty to stabbing

A 15-year-old Cashmere High School student pleaded guilty to first-degree assault for stabbing a classmate who taunted him with ethnic slurs.

The plea deal yesterday in Chelan County Superior Court would put Mike Placencia in jail for 16 months, nearly half the maximum sentence.

Placencia stabbed Dane Montgomery with a pocketknife on February 21 at school.

Sentencing is set for July 18.

Yakima hit with whooping cough outbreak

At least 32 people in Yakima County this year have contracted whooping cough, also known as pertussis.

None of the cases were fatal, but county health officials are

letting doctors know the disease is in the community.

Health District employee Marianne Patnode said the best way to prevent the spread of the disease is to cover your face when you cough or sneeze and to wash your hands.

NATIONAL NEWS

McDonald's settles french fries lawsuit

McDonald's is going to donate \$10 million to Hindu groups and other organizations. It is part of a settlement of lawsuits that accused McDonald's of mislabeling its french fries and hash browns as vegetarian.

The company admits they made a mistake in not letting the public know about ingredients in the fries and hash browns. The vegetable oil used contained essence of beef for flavoring.

In its apology, the company expressed regret for any hard-

ships caused among Hindus, vegetarians and others.

Study will follow effect of grief on children

Psychiatrists are going to study a group of children who lost parents in the September attack on the World Trade Center. The goal is to study the effect of grief on child development.

Experts hope to attract approximately 50 families to the program. So far, seven children are involved. The study started last month at Cornell University in New York.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Five wounded in fourth day of fighting in Ireland

Police in Belfast, Northern Ireland, are pleading with Catholics and Protestants to stop the violence. Five men were wounded by gunfire Monday.

It was the fourth straight night of street fighting in east Belfast.

As many as one thousand people fought hand-to-hand at one point in a Protestant enclave.

Monday's violence began when Protestants were holding daytime street parties to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. Protestant loyalists want Northern Ireland to remain a British province, while Catholic nationalists want it to be united with Ireland.

Officials discover mad cow disease in Israel

Farm officials in Israel said the first case of mad cow disease has been discovered in the country.

The Agriculture Ministry is starting an emergency program to contain the disease, which can also infect humans.

*Compiled by Dana Carr
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM*

Stay in School!

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Summer Western Front

First issue will appear June 26.

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The Western Front is published twice weekly in fall, winter and spring; once a week in summer session. Address: The Western Front, Western Washington University, CH 110, Bellingham, WA 98225-9100. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council, and is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection with advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in a course in the Department of Journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors. Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in College Hall 07, or by phone to (360) 650-3161.

WWU Official Announcements

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition. Announcements should be limited to 50 words, typewritten or legibly printed, and sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS -9117, via fax to X/7287, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

FALL QUARTER DEGREE APPLICANTS must have applications on file in the Registrar's Office, OM 230, by June 7.

WESTERN'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES will meet at 8:30 a.m., Friday, June 14, 2002, in the Board Room, Old Main 340. No meeting will be held on June 13. For more information, contact Suzanne Baker, Assistant Secretary to the Board, X/3117.

SUMMER SESSION REGISTRATION: Pick up a bulletin and start planning for the six-week session (June 25-Aug. 2) or nine-week session (June 25-Aug. 23). Call Dave Plakos at 650-2841 for more information or visit <http://www.acadweb.wwu.edu/eesp/>

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST is offered in OM 120 at 3 p.m. June 10, and at 9 a.m. June 13. Registration not required. Students must bring photo identification, student number, Social Security number and No. 2 pencil. \$15 fee is payable in exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes. Schedule and sample problems may be found at <http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm>.

PUBLIC GARAGE SALE OF CENTRAL STORES items on June 8, from 9 a.m.-noon at the Commissary bldg. Clearance of discontinued office and janitorial supplies. All items marked down 75% or more. For information, call X/3566 or X/3546.

THE CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING IS RECRUITING applicants for the 2002-03 academic year. Do you want to make a difference in your community and have work study or subsidized loans? Applications are available online at <http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~csl> or in WL 481. Questions may be addressed to Lisa Moulds, X/6515.

CAN'T FIT THOSE LAST COUPLE OF CREDITS in your schedule this summer? Take an online course through Extended Education and Summer Programs. No specific class time to meet. Fit your education around your schedule. For information, call X/3308 or X/3717.

INFORMATION ABOUT NATIONAL TESTING is available at the Testing Center, OM 120.

SEVERAL JOB SEARCH AND CAREER WORKSHOPS are offered through the Career Services Center. Signup is required. For detailed workshop information or to sign up, see <http://www.careers.wwu.edu>, stop by OM 280, or call X/3240.

City focuses on sex offenders

Publicity encourages officials to find system that works

By Valerie Bauman
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Bellingham community is more aware of released sex offenders recently, and as a result authorities have begun to take action, said Department of Corrections officer Thad Allen.

"My plan is to talk to every neighborhood," Allen said. "It's important that every neighborhood is educated, that every neighborhood is talking about it and every neighborhood has a direction to take."

The publicity given to released sex offenders and those responsible for housing and tracking them has stirred up discussion and frustration within the community.

"People say offenders deserve a place to live, but then say, 'Not in my neighborhood,'"

Bellingham Police Chief Randy Carroll said.

Louise Bjornson, a member of the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission, said she believes the community would be better off if sex offenders lived in commercial or industrial areas.

"As a community member, I'm very concerned about the state funding them a house in a residential neighborhood," Bjornson said. "That's not the right thing to do, people have a right to feel safe in their own neighborhoods."

The DOC and other law enforcement agencies are developing a community advisory board to develop ideas on making the transition process easier for newly released offenders, Allen said.

Allen said the board then

plans to take their evaluation of the local condition to the state, county and city political arenas.

"When we go back to the politicians and the people, it comes with a grassroots concern that relates to the community," Allen said.

Allen said the board hopes to provide housing for sex offenders. Education, counseling and substance abuse education might also be incorporated.

The Bellingham Police Department is applying for a state grant for preliminary planning to locate a site for a facility to monitor released offenders, Carroll said.

"We don't know if we'll get it and we don't know if the money is even available," Carroll said.

In the meantime education is key for concerned community members, Allen said.

Resident students to pay quarterly housing bill

By Juli Robinson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western freshman Rachel Zommick said she thinks paying housing and tuition under one bill next fall will make payments easier.

Currently, housing and tuition bills are paid separately, but with the new system, one bill consisting of housing and tuition costs will be due each quarter.

"When they budget their fees they can do it all at once," Zommick said. "Granted, it is one large sum, but it's just one."

Kay Rich, director of university residences, said she is also pleased with the change.

"The one bill that is concise and consistent is going to help our students and families (to) be more responsible about their fiscal responsibilities," she said.

Kurt Willis, associate director of University Residences,

Business and Operations, said one of the primary reasons for the change is the billing statement. Many people have said it is difficult to understand.

"(I never know) if I am paying for classes now, housing, the extra two credits that I added to my schedule?" Western sophomore Vicki Orievsky said. "I think if it's all on one bill, it will be easier to keep track of where the money is going."

However, some students think the new system will make it more difficult to afford tuition.

"It's a double slam on students' financial capabilities," Western sophomore Annie Billings said. "Just because housing is going up, and tuition is going up, and then students are forced to pay that bill in one chunk. If it's spread out a little bit it's easier to take in."

Although Rich said she has wanted this change for two years, her department was

reluctant to move away from monthly billing because it mirrors the off-campus students' bill.

Despite these concerns, Rich said students who have difficulty meeting the quarterly billing system can obtain temporary loans or seek financial counseling from the financial aid office to set up a system that meets their individual needs.

"Hopefully, working with financial resources will help students manage their bills more efficiently," she said. "They've got to take some responsibility with that."

Although this billing system will be new to most students, Rich said Western used it nearly a decade ago to meet the needs of students and families.

With the new system, Rich said students will pay \$300 by September 1 and their first quarterly payment is due October 15.

Bellingham dollars light up Civic Field

By Matt Dornan
THE WESTERN FRONT

Athletes who make Civic Field their home during sporting events might notice a brighter field next year. The field is undergoing some improvements this summer as new lights and light fixtures are installed.

The installations will increase visibility, reduce glare and be more efficient, said Marvin Harris, Bellingham Parks Operations Manager.

"The new lights and fixtures will double the amount of light on the field," Harris said. "It will be a lot brighter for teams."

Currently, lighting is primarily aimed at the 50-yard line and the end zones get little light. The new system will eliminate this problem, Harris said.

Some people did not know the old lights were in need of replacement.

"I have never noticed a problem before," said Steve Wilson, Squilicum high school head football coach. "However, I am glad they are putting them in."

"
The new lights and fixtures will double the amount of light on the field.

Marvin Harris
Bellingham parks operations manager

His team uses Civic Field for home football games, as well as other Bellingham High Schools, mainly on Friday nights.

The Western men's soccer coach thinks the current lighting is fine.

"I had no idea we were getting new lights," said Travis Connell, Western head soccer coach. "The

current system is fine for what we do. I like it because it is focused down on the field and it doesn't light up the entire neighborhood."

The project is going to cost \$420,000 and includes new lights, fixtures, transformers, new control switches and circuit breakers.

Harris said a dimming switch will also be installed, allowing the amount of light to be controlled during early evening games. During varsity football and soccer games the lights will run at full power.

The money to fund this project will come out of the city's general fund, which is raised by tax dollars.

Harris said because of a tight budget, the parking lot lights will not be replaced, but the Parks and Recreation Department has plans to replace those lights in the near future.

"We've had some engineers come out to evaluate the parking lot lights," Harris said. "Hopefully next year we can improve those lights."

The new system is designed using metal-halide gas tube lamps, which are extremely energy efficient, Harris said. The new fixtures include shields to control 95 percent of the spill and glare light while providing higher, uniform light levels on the playing field.

Harris said the existing lighting system is more than 30 years old. The equipment, which is based on the use of quartz lamps, is no longer dependable and is extremely inefficient compared to sports lighting available today.

The project is expected to start in mid-June and be completed by late August. Civic Field Stadium will be closed for event use during this time.

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Artist: Catalog helps sketch artists draw suspects

Continued from Page 1

"You don't start with that old picture (of the suspect), because you could suggest all kinds of things," Brown said.

In the case of the Western assaults, Doughty said three different victims said they could describe the attacker.

Brown uses the FBI facial identification catalog to help witnesses identify characteristics of the suspect. The catalog is divided into different facial features. Each category is broken into several groups, such as

squinty eyes, balding hair or large nose.

When a person is threatened, they usually only see certain features, Brown said.

"They're gonna see your eyes, your nose, your mouth and that's it," Brown said.

"If they can spend enough time, maybe they'll see the hair and maybe the peripheral stuff will come in."

Brown said she does not pressure the witness to create a description. She said some people cannot remember some of a

suspect's features.

The witness determines when the sketch is done, Brown said.

"When they tell me I'm right on, then we end the session," she said.

Sometimes the drawings are so accurate, Brown said, the witness says, "I'm getting the creeps right now."

Brown said she feels like she is contributing to the community because somebody is waiting for the case to be resolved.

"If it helps, I'm glad I can do that," she said.

Pipeline: Olympic, Department of Ecology, Shell plan negotiations

Continued from Page 1

Ecology is waiting for a report from the National Transportation Safety Board expected later this summer before deciding whether to issue a fine to IMCO, she said.

The Department of Ecology is allowed by law to fine each negligent company \$20,000 per day for every day the environment was harmed. Hutchison said they found harm to the environment for 393 days.

If the companies just pay the fines, Hutchison said all of the money will go into a state account that might not help Bellingham or the environment.

"We want to go into negotiations because that's the only way we can get money back to the community," Hutchison said.

She said if negotiations take place, the companies will most likely pay part of their fines by sponsoring community projects, such as education and prevention programs.

Cameron Smyth, Shell Pipeline spokesman, said they plan to continue negotiations with the state and federal government.

Olympic Pipe Line Co. also plans to negotiate a settlement, said Dan Cummings, the company's external affairs manager.

Carl Weimer, SAFE Bellingham executive director, said during negotiations the Department of Ecology must make the companies pay for projects equivalent to the entire fine amount. SAFE Bellingham

is a group that promotes pipeline safety.

"As long as the Department of Ecology keeps the amount of the fines in mind when they negotiate these projects, I think it's great," he said. "I know the Department of Ecology tends to negotiate fines down often."

Hutchison said the amount a company pays is rarely exactly the amount of the fine. She said although companies sometimes pay more than the fine amount, they usually end up paying less.

"That's what negotiation and settlements are all about," she said. "This is basically how the court system works, so there's no mystery about that."

Hutchison said the criminal cases, civil cases and fines resulting from the explosion will make the companies think twice before violating any more environmental laws.

"Certainly I think these companies will learn a very harsh lesson," she said.

"We hope (this fine) is a deterrent even apart from the lesson learned from this disaster."

King said unless Congress passes stricter pipeline safety laws, in time the pipeline companies will forget about pipeline safety.

"The question is: When is Congress going to pass some laws that are meaningful to pipeline safety ... long past the time the names Wade King, Stephen Tsiorvas and Liam Wood are forgotten?" he said.

Reorganize: New plan could cost Western \$375,000

Continued from Page 1

the College of Fine and Performing Arts spoke passionately about their interest in maintaining their college.

"I think the legislative-style hearing of the CFPA and the senate-administered vote were very powerful in helping (Bodman) arrive in his conclusion," Gilliam said.

In the final restructuring report, Bodman said the new plan would cost \$375,000 a year to support the two new colleges. The cost of his old plan would have been between \$37,000 and \$42,000 per year for an associate dean.

Bodman said funds already set aside for his earlier proposals would go toward the new colleges. He also said that money for a vice provost for faculty affairs, an unfilled position in Bodman's office, could go toward the two new colleges.

"The vice provost's position is badly needed," according to Bodman's report. "However, the

need for college reorganization takes precedence over the completion of the reorganization within my own office," he said.

The provost's initial plan for restructuring would have merged Huxley with the science departments, created a College of Professional Studies and a University College, which would prepare students for their chosen major.

The provost presented a second plan for restructuring in April that would have merged the College of Fine and Performing Arts with the Humanities and Social Sciences. He also called for the creation of a College of Science and Technology. Bodman dropped his second proposal after a faculty vote showed the majority of faculty members were opposed to it.

Some faculty members are concerned with Bodman's latest proposal for restructuring.

Tjalling Ypma, the mathe-

matics department chairman, said his department is concerned about the cost of the provost's plan. He said the faculty has pressing needs that might not get attention with the new plan.

The placement of the mathematics department within the new structure is also an issue because of its function to other departments, Ypma said.

The department might be forced to choose between the Colleges of Science and Technology and the Humanities and Social Sciences, he said.

"It's really important for us to maintain close contact with all units served," Ypma said.

Bodman recommended in his report that certain departments should explore which college would work best for each department. Morse will make a recommendation about the plan to the Board of Trustees. The board will discuss the proposal at its meeting this month, Bodman said.

Run: Bellingham program gives girls self-respect, positive body image and health

Continued from Page 1

Kathie Tupper, director of the Bellingham program, said the program prepares preteen girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.

"What is important is how you feel about yourself and everything stems from that," Tupper said.

Tupper said the program has been well received in Bellingham by parents, teachers and recreation centers. At this time last year, only two groups were in the program. This spring the number of

groups has increased to 18.

Patel said she never learned about positive body image, cooperation or community service when she was younger.

"I see the lesson and it centers me," Patel said. "I learn along with them."

Pullen and Patel's group looked at advertisements in magazines and tried to recognize whether party, success, independence, bandwagon or sex appeal were being used.

Yvonne Barker said she likes to watch her daughter Cassandra run, who has been

in the Girls on the Run program twice. She said she also likes to participate with her daughter.

"(Girls on the Run is) a lot less competitive than other sports," Barker said. "They can be themselves and express their feelings."

Barker said she found out about the program from her daughter's school.

Barker said the program is good for adolescent girls, because they are changing so much from childhood to adulthood.

Breanna Perry, 11, said it is her first time participating in Girls on the Run, and she has always liked running.

She also said she likes her coaches.

"I like the program because you get encouraging words and you get cheered on," Perry said. "I really, really like running. It's fun."

Patel said her group of girls ran a 3 kilometer race twice and a 5 kilometer once. She said the girls have improved since they started in March and are enjoying running more.

"I like racing because I like to see how fast I can go," Perry said.

Girls on the Run is hosting the Human Race 10 a.m., Saturday, June 15 at Maritime Heritage Park to raise money for girls who want to be in the program, but cannot afford it.

The cost of the program is on a sliding scale from \$15 to \$140, depending on the family's income.

Girls from 8 to 12 years old can participate in Girls on the Run. The Girls on Track program is a similar program for girls 12 to 14 years old.

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See Our Insert

More tickets available for graduation

Registrar gives in to student pressure, but additional guests will have to stand, he says

By Betsy Anderson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western Registrar Joe St. Hilaire decided Wednesday to change the number of graduation tickets seniors receive from three to four as a result of pressure from students wanting more seats.

St. Hilaire said he received a lot of angry phone calls, so he would rather give out four tickets to students. Students have been discouraged because they want to be able to invite close family and friends and they want more than three tickets, he said.

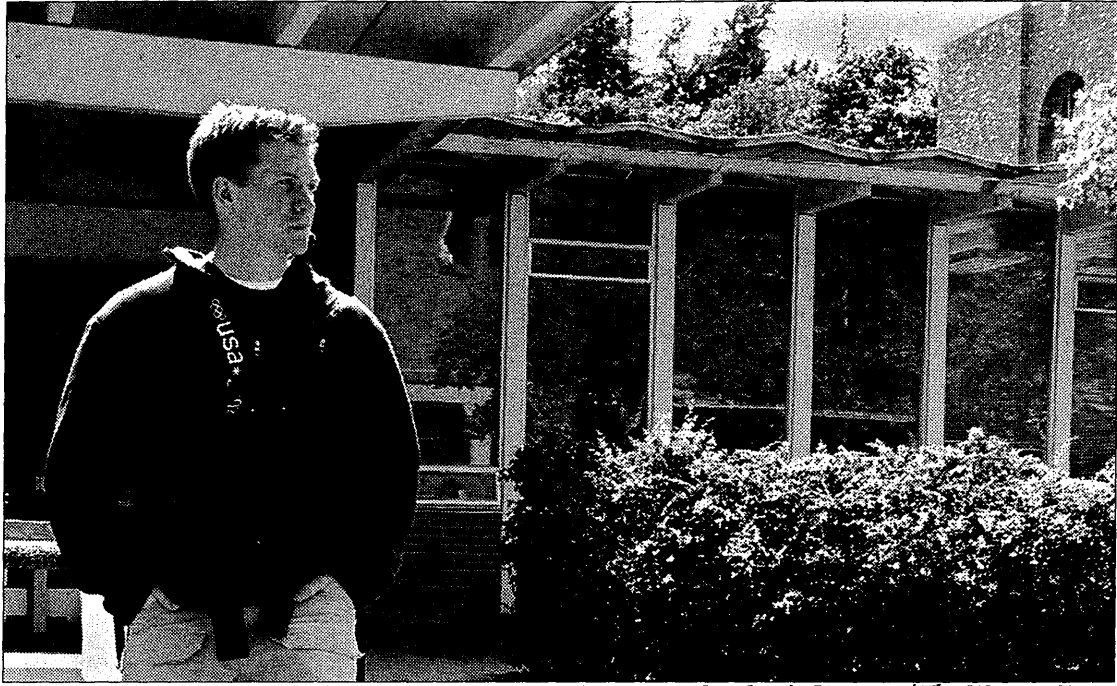
"If students and their guests would let us know earlier that they want tickets, then we would know how many people are coming and could give out more tickets," St. Hilaire said.

St. Hilaire said Carver Gym holds a maximum of 2,588 seated people, which means each graduate should get three tickets. He said his decision to offer four tickets will force the additional 220 guests to stand.

"We hope people will be understanding about this situation," St. Hilaire said. "Until we get a better facility in town, then we're just stuck. Carver Gym is the best facility in Bellingham to use."

Graduating senior Ross Johnston said students do not receive enough tickets. He said he thinks the registrar plan for solutions in advance incorporating all of the available venues in the area, he said.

"They should have the gradu-



Western graduating senior Ross Johnston stands outside Carver Gym, where he will graduate next Saturday. He managed to get an additional admission ticket by writing to President Morse, but will give it away now that the registrar is giving four to everyone.

Stephanie Kosonen/The Western Front

ations at Civic Field or even arrange to have them further south like the Key Arena," Johnston said. "They have stands and semi-covered areas for guests. Most students at Western are from Seattle anyway and families wouldn't have to drive as far."

If the ceremonies are not moved to a bigger facility, Johnston said he thinks Western should have a third ceremony.

"Either way, I'd be happy," he said.

St. Hilaire said he did not know how Western would

squeeze in three ceremonies.

Graduating senior Bailey Ith said he is frustrated because he cannot invite all the people he would like, including his parents, fiancée and his future in-laws.

"I've worked hard at Western and it's a big accomplishment to graduate," Ith said. "I want the people closest to me, that helped me get through college, to be there."

Johnston said it upsets him that students have to advertise and purchase their tickets for \$50 because they are desperate for a ticket.

"A lot of people have more than three or four people in their immediate family," Johnston said. "It's a problem when Western lowers the number of tickets students get when it takes so much time and energy to get a degree."

Johnston said seniors would be motivated to apply for graduation on time if they knew tickets were only available until a certain date. If students slack off and don't submit their application then they should take the ticket scraps that are left, he said.

Students get chance to create user-friendly software

By Matthew Saxe
THE WESTERN FRONT

Creating software is one thing, but computer science professor Gashwin Saleno said he wants to teach Western students to create easy-to-use software.

The Computer Science department is offering a new course this summer focused on improving software for easier use. Saleno created and will teach the course titled "Man-machine Interface for a Better Display Design."

To the surprise of Saleno and computer science chairman Thomas Downing, the course filled quickly during registration.

"Right now we're at (full) capacity and people are begging to get in," computer science adviser Julie Marx said.

Many students said they signed up for the course without knowing the course description. It is one of the electives computer science majors need to graduate.

"It's one of the only upper level classes that are offered in

the summer," Western senior Tom Candland said.

The course offers students instruction and a broader perspective on creating user-friendly software.

"The student will be able to associate and use data available from studies to adapt their programs and make them user-friendly or intuitively sound," Saleno said.

Saleno said he wants students to be aware of other points of view when they program.

"The objective of the class is to make students aware of problems and solutions in the computer interaction experience," Saleno said. "The focus is not programming but how to make a program user-friendly."

Saleno said many people have probably experienced software that places items on the computer desktop in awkward locations.

"That is one of the man-machine problems that will be addressed," Saleno said.

Faculty gives back to ethnic field of study

By Megan Lewis
THE WESTERN FRONT

As a student of the 1960s, Larry Estrada was a protester demanding that higher education include ethnic studies. The Fairhaven professor recently came full circle by becoming president of the National Association for Ethnic Studies.

"Running for the position is a way of giving back to the field of ethnic and cultural studies," Estrada said.

The NAES provides an interdisciplinary forum for scholars and activists by promoting activities and scholarships in ethnic studies. Estrada said he hopes to focus the organization on international and national issues by changing curriculum and diversity.

"I am rather confident that professor Estrada will take the organization to a new level of interaction with the academic communities beyond the United States, as we collectively try to find answers to the seemingly growing neglect for communal groups," NAES Director Rudy Mattai said.

His participation as a strong advocate in the NAES earned respect from the members of the organization, Fairhaven Dean Ronald Riggins said.

Estrada was elected in April at a convention held in Vancouver, B.C.

He worked with the NAES for several years. Estrada said he led two national conferences and wrote and edited for the NAES journal.

"It didn't surprise me at all that he was elected president," Fairhaven associate professor Julie Helling said. "He is the kind of person that can maintain a passion for equality, while at the same time sort of move it in a very practical direction."

Estrada, who came to Western in 1989, is now the director of American cultural studies and a professor of ethnic and comparative cultural studies.

He received Western's Diversity Achievement Award during the 1997-98 school year.

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Breaking into the hip-hop



The Factory's house Disc Jockey and promoter Dathan Ladniak, also known as LAD, spins hip-hop records Thursday night of Dead Week to a crowd of Be

By Ailey Kato
THE WESTERN FRONT

Hip-hop is not just music, but a culture, said Western senior Jason Guerrero, who is known as J-Tyme when he is a Disc Jockey.

Hip-hop culture consists of four elements: DJs who spin records, MCs who rap lyrics, break-dancers and graffiti artists. "Hip-hop is the way people dress, the way people talk," J-Tyme said. "Hip-hop as a whole, the music and everything about it, has the ability to bring all different types of people together." Although small and not well-known, Bellingham has its own hip-hop scene, which is represented in radio, shows and clubs.

DJs debate hip-hop

DJ J-Tyme spins on his radio show called "Mass Appeal" at 8 p.m. every Friday on KUGS radio station.

J-Tyme said he plays underground or independent hip-hop on his show, and more commercial hip-hop when he spins at The Factory on Thursday nights.

"Commercial hip-hop has a sort of appeal to it," J-Tyme said. "It is a little watered down and radio friendly. I think the main difference is the exposure it gets. I won't hate because it's commercial."

Jeff Maloney, known by his on-air personality, the Jerk, has a show following J-Tyme at 11 p.m. called 360 dEGREES.

"360 dEGREES plays independent beats, lyrics, local and worldwide," the Jerk said.

The Jerk is also part of a Western Associated Students club called the Student Hip-Hop Organization of Western Washington. The club brought four hip-hop shows to campus this year and organized a few others at campus. He said the hip-hop scene is growing in Bellingham.

The Jerk said college radio is a way for independent artists to get exposure. He said he has no problem with commercial hip-hop, but people have to search for underground hip-hop.

"The majority of this fun is to search for it," the Jerk said. "By any means necessary. By word of mouth, by asking people what they got in their headphones, listening to other radio shows online, whatever. It's neverending. It's a big world."

An intelligent MC

Sergio Colon, known as Surge Spittable, is an MC with Prospect Champions, a hip-hop group from Bellingham. He is ready to go on tour and step up his solo career. He visits Bellingham even though he has lived in Seattle a year and also works a 9 to 5 job at a Seattle school.

"I was ready to move on from Bellingham," Surge said. "Prospect Champions did every venue there. It was time to leave."

Surge said he was proud to be underground and used to mock commercial hip-hop, but his views are changing as he is in his mid-20s.

"I'm getting older and I need to pay the bills," Surge said. "I'm ready for the next level and that's commercialism. I used to get angry about (rap artists) talking about cars and jewelry, but now I just don't listen to it."

Surge said he does not like to tell people he is a rapper because of its connotations. He said he used to tell people he was a vocalist in a hip-hop group.

"I work at an elementary school," Surge said. "I speak proper English. I'm an intelligent person."

Battling breakers

Whatcom Community College student Randy Buchanan, 19, said he break-dances anywhere he can find a spot: at a friend's house, at a tennis court or at a hip-hop concert.

"A lot of body strength and a lot of rhythm are the most important things to have," Buchanan said. "Breaking isn't all spinning on your back and head, there's a lot of style to it."

He said he used to be part of a break-dancing crew called Non-Stop Breakers. The group would go to Surge's concerts and dance.

"It's something you do at a hip-hop concert, but it's kind of separate," Buchanan said. "It's kind of a branch off."

Break-dancing will not be the main focus of a hip-hop show unless it is a contest, Buchanan said. Break-dancers or "breakers" sometimes compete against one another, which is called battling.

Buchanan said people can definitely injure themselves break-dancing. He said he dislocated a shoulder doing a trick.

"Your muscles have to be ready for the tricks you're going to do or you'll hurt yourself," he said.

Western senior Henés Wong dances for The WWU Hip-Hop Dance team and has been teaching hip-hop classes at Western for two years.

Wong said she "break-dance" or pretends to break-dance. She said she likes the dance to look like what is on MTV videos. Break-dancing is part of hip-hop, but not as strong as it used to be.

involved with hip-hop are not involved in. do not usually know much about it.

although, will also rap or DJ, he said. "I think part of the association of comes from hip-hop being all about re."

"I think a lot of hip-hop has lost Graffiti by its nature will always retain."

Philippe said if people are not rebell the status quo.

"Graffiti itself isn't addressing the lems, but it's a very in-your-face, visu disagreement with the system," Philip fite does address important issues of power."

He said the Bellingham graffiti because it's such a small town.

"One thing I like about the graffiti there is always some start-up, some ki they will never be able to stop those p busy and get his name up everywhoe."

Philippe said police enforcement is p in trying to stop graffiti, but they will or graffiti writers who are passing thr

"You can stifle the scene, but you are fite by enforcement," Philippe said.

B-town's hip scene

Western junior Zana Tfutakawa said she does not think Bellingham scene because not much interest exist

"There's a hip-hop community, a supporting each other, but there is no organization for that scene," Tfutakaw

Bellingham has two hip-hop radio s. The Factory and Downtown John's shows.

"People are always complaining th but when we have shows or advertie there is not a lot of people who come o

Independent photo by Ailey Kato. The Factory shows their art on State Street.

op scene

Attention: Hip-hop heads

•U.N.I.T. and Sub-Dwellers will be at The Factory Saturday, June 8.

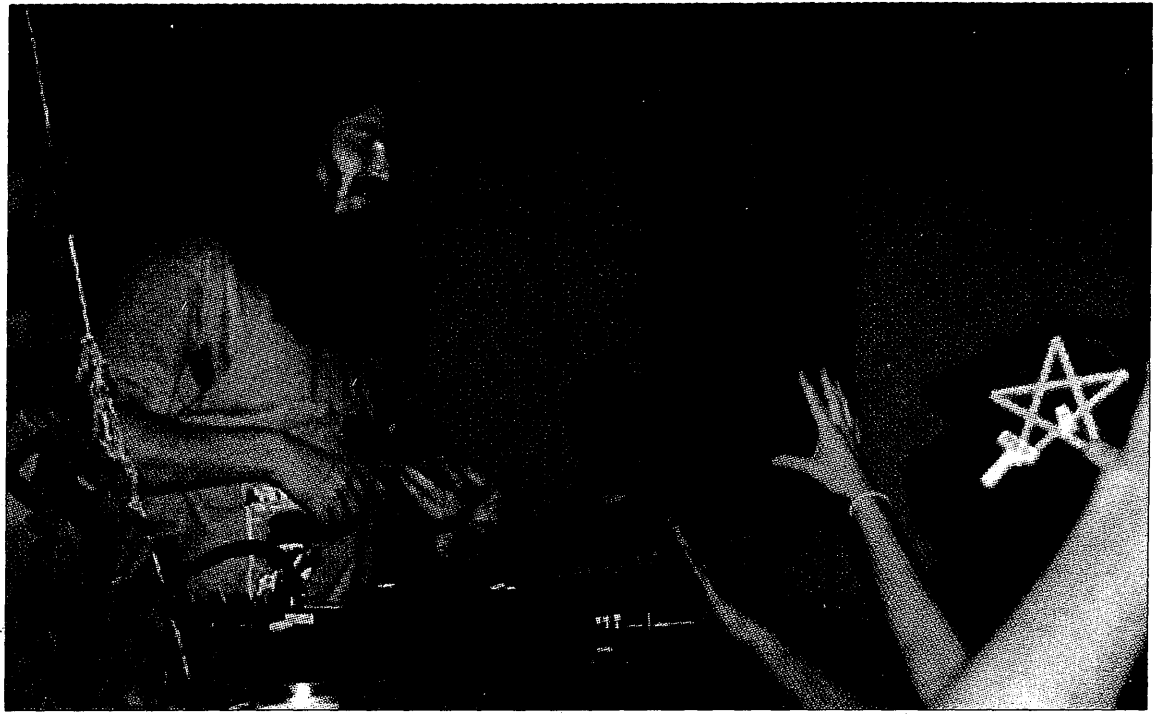
•The WWU Hip-Hop Dance Team, along with other break-dance crews, will perform at Cruz Control's "Battle of Seattle" at Rainier Beach High School in Seattle. The event is from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

•Student Hip-Hop Organization of Western Washington will be in Red Square on Tuesday, June 11 recruiting people to help next year. Contact the Associated Students club by e-mailing theshowsquared@hotmail.com.

•Surge Spittable with DJ Echo, Cancer Rising and other special guests will be playing at The Factory on June 15.

•KUGS 89.3 FM two hip-hop radio shows: J-Tyme's "Mass Appeal" from 8 to 11 p.m. and Jeff the Jerk's "360 DEGREES" begins at 11 p.m. Contact the station at www.kugs.org.

•Every Thursday is hip-hop night at The Factory and Friday is hip-hop night at Downtown Johnny's. Both clubs are located downtown and are 21 and over.



Paul Nicholas Carlson/ The Western Front
Studio veteran DJ Swamp gives away copies of his newest album "Never is Now" Sunday night at Club Fiesta. Detn8or Records, a Bellingham business, presented the show headlined by Swamp.

A spinnin' show

By Paul Nicholas Carlson
REVIEW

Techno aficionados trickled into Club Fiesta when the doors opened at 10 p.m. Sunday night. DJ Swamp finally approached the stage a little after midnight.

The fans waited anxiously, but patiently, on their feet as Swamp set up his equipment. Finally, at 12:30 a.m., the veteran Disc Jockey took the stage and kept the party going well into the night. After the long wait, Swamp did not disappoint the fans because he delivered an energized show.

Swamp is a 15-year veteran of the turntables, and was the 1996 USA DMC Champion, a title bestowed on the winner of an annual DJ competition.

Swamp is best known as Beck's DJ and has also collaborated with recording artists such as Crystal Method, BT, Kid Rock, The Bloodhound Gang, RL Burnside, Kool Keith, Devo and the Dust Brothers. His most recent album is his solo 2001 release, "Never is Now."

Swamp kicked the night off with the high tech "Worship the Robots," a hip mix of bizarre vocals and electronic beats.

Throughout the night, Swamp's lively antics captured the audience and kept the energy pulsing. At one point, he scratched

the all-too-familiar Beverly Hills Cop theme, "Axel F," as well as Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit."

After Swamp was through with a few of his records, he broke them, sending shards of vinyl into

the crowd for the audience to fight over the souvenirs. Occasionally, he would take a second to throw free copies of his CD toward the spectators and pump up the fans for his next song.

The high-energy "Demons in the Suburbs" kept the audience hungry for more from the DJ, as he resurrected the good old school knack for boasting and bragging.

"All I want to do is hear the crowd scream loud, I'm the champ hands down, keep a beat and make it pound," Swamp proclaimed in "Demons in the Suburbs."

In many ways, he looks like he should be fronting a hard rock band instead of running the turntables. With his long hair hanging over his face and his wallet chain shimmering in the sporadic nightclub lights, the crowd broke out into applause.

The small, intimate setting of Club Fiesta allowed the fans to interact directly with Swamp,

letting the audience make requests and the DJ talk with individual fans.

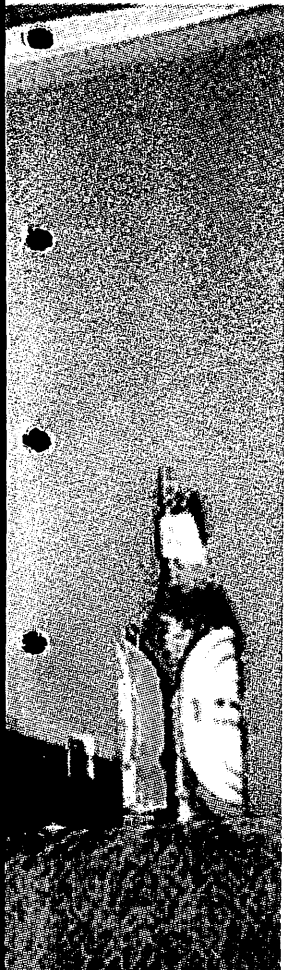
Swamp's beats and sound are an eccentric and dynamic assortment of guitar riffs, hip-hop, electronica, scratching, techno and goth surrealism.

Not one to go silently into the night, Swamp ended the show by breathing fire, lighting both his hand and his turntables ablaze.

Swamp is proof DJ'ing is as much as skill as it is an art. With his commanding lyrics and expertise with the turntable, Swamp injects energy into any beat he lays down.



Paul Nicholas Carlson/ The Western Front
DJ Swamp gets the crowd energized and on its feet with his scratching and breakbeat skills.



by Kato/ The Western Front
Bellingham hip-hop heads.

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J-Tyme said.

The Western Front
ly on the Up &

Bellingham Bells: Past and present

By Derek Sheppard
THE WESTERN FRONT

Spedo Southas, 79, said he remembers a time when a Bellingham Bells ticket was \$1 and popcorn was 10 cents.

The Bells, a local semi-pro baseball team, has been a summer staple of the city's sports scene for decades.

Southas said he used to umpire many of the Bells' games and can remember thousands of people cramming into old Battersby Park on the corner of F and Girard streets.

"We used to pack 'em in here," he said.

Bob Nunamaker, 79, played shortstop for the Bells from 1945 to 1964, and said he remembers how devoted some of the fans were.

"Gee whiz, they really backed us up," he said. "They just loved the Bells."

Fans loved the Bells because of the talented players and their winning record, Nunamaker said.

Nunamaker said the Bells played the best competition they could find. One year, they played a tough team from Mount Vernon that was loaded with some of the better players in the region.

"They still couldn't beat us," he said. "We were a great ball club."

Nunamaker said Bells center fielder Walt Richardson impressed people with his amazing speed.

"He was the fastest kid I was ever around," he said. "He could really run."

Richardson, 77, of Bellingham said he recalls a moment of hilarity that highlighted one of the perils of playing baseball in Bellingham — mud.

After hitting a dribbler down the third base line, Richardson fell twice as he was running down the muddy first base line.

"The crowd started to roar," Richardson said.

Following the successive roars from the crowd, Richardson said he reached first base and was amazed to see the umpire call him safe.

The first base coach was laughing and said, "You should



Derek Sheppard/ The Western Front

Assistant groundskeeper Allen Clarke prepares the field at Joe Martin Stadium for a game on Monday. The stadium is named after long-time Bells manager Joe Martin, who managed the team from 1942 to 1972.

have seen that third-base man, he fell one more time than you did," Richardson said.

For Richardson, his days with the Bells provide humorous memories, and stories that hold a more serious spot in his heart.

Along with 20 state titles, the Bells participated in the National Semi-Pro Tournament in Wichita, Kansas, on a regular basis.

He said he remembers vast crowds of 18,000 to 20,000 people packed into Lawrence Stadium in Wichita.

"Well, of course you always remember Wichita," Richardson said.

Brandon Newell, current pitching coach for the Bells said going to Wichita to play in the National Baseball Congress World Series is a major goal for the Bells this year.

"Having fun in this game and winning go hand in hand," he said.

See BELLS, Page 12

Cookie Jar Gifts

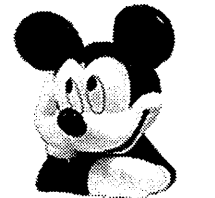


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Reeling in the big ones around Bellingham

By Matt Dornan

THE WESTERN FRONT

Some days it is easy to catch fish and some days it is impossible to get a bite, explains Bellingham resident and avid fisherman, Jim Deller.

Regardless of the inconsistency, which occurs regardless of the fishing spot, Bellingham offers some great fishing for everyone, Deller said.

Deller, 37, moved to Bellingham from the East Coast in August and said he fishes in various waters. Lake Padden, Silver Lake, Nooksack River and Skagit River all provide good fishing, he said.

"You can always go somewhere to fish without a boat, and there is a lot of fish in the rivers here," he said. "On the East Coast, you need a boat for everything."

Silver Lake, which is located off Mt. Baker Highway in Maple Falls, is always a good place to find fish, said Western senior Brian Reinhardt.

"Silver Lake is the best right now," he said. "They stock the lake every year, so there's a ton of fish to catch. On good days, you can catch your limit in an hour."

The Department of Fish and Wildlife regulates the amount of fish that can be caught. According to its Web site, the catch limit in rivers is two per day. In lakes, reservoirs and ponds the limit is five.

It is also necessary to purchase a license based on the type of fishing. A fresh water license



Matt Dornan/ The Western Front

Jim Deller, 37, of Bellingham, casts his bait into Lake Padden on Tuesday. Deller, who moved from the East Coast in August, said "You can always go somewhere to fish without a boat, ... on the East Coast, you need a boat for everything."

is \$21.90, a salt water license is \$19.21 and a shell fish license is \$7.67. A combination package, which includes all three, is available for \$78.84.

Reinhardt said he likes to fish at Lake McMurray in Mount Vernon. He said the bait shop

displays the biggest fish caught each year.

"Last year someone caught a rainbow (trout) that was 32 inches and 14 pounds," he said. "That's huge for a rainbow."

Lake Padden, located off Samish Way, is home to various

trout and perch. Deller said he fishes at Lake Padden because it is relaxing and it is possible to catch some large fish.

"It's peaceful out here," he said. "It's just you and the water. Some days you don't catch anything and you just think. Other days you're so busy reeling in bites you don't have time to think."

Western senior Andrew Bartram said he feels the same way.

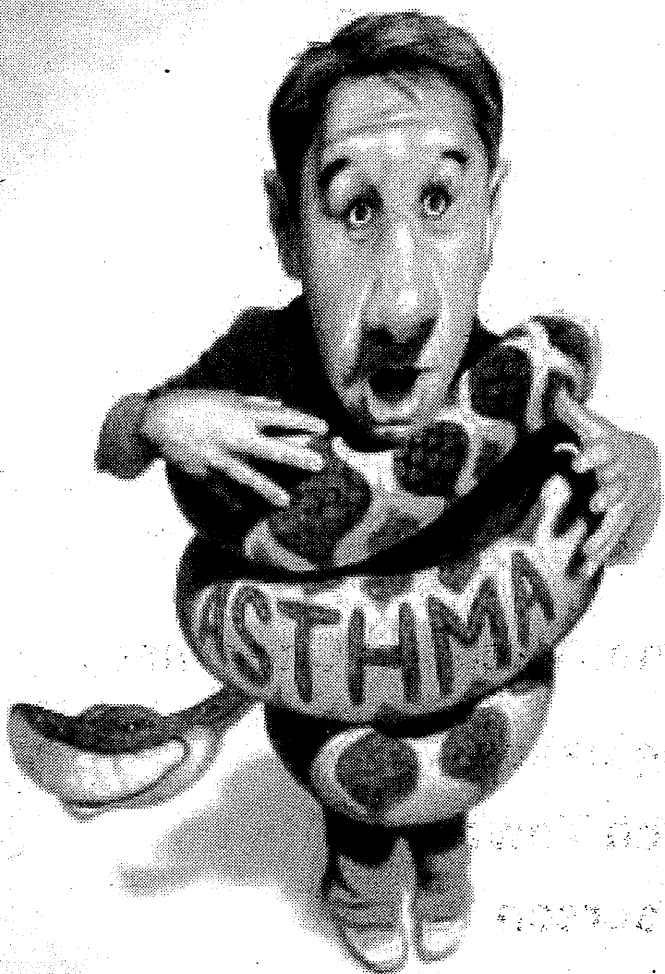
"Lake Padden is a very peaceful and serene lake," he said. "The atmosphere is almost intoxicating."

Deller said he uses different types of bait including crawlers, spoons and corkies. Crawlers are worms, spoons are a type of lure that look like a minnows and corkies are round yellow balls, Deller said.

He said his most unusual bait is colored yarn and a corkie, which he uses in rivers.

"I use the colored yarn and spray it with a shrimp smell and tie it to a corkie," he said. "It bounces along the bottom and the yarn resembles a tail."

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Photo by Jack Carver courtesy of the Whatcom Museum of History and Art

Tom Jones (left) of the Bellingham Bells beats out a throw at first against the Seattle Elks in May 1949. The Bells are shown playing in Battersby Park at the corner of F and Girard streets before the grandstands were demolished. Bob Nunamaker, 79, who played shortstop for the Bells, said 2,000 to 3,000 people used to attend the home games. "We used to fill that ballpark night after night," he said.

Bells: Building on past success

Continued from Page 10

The Bells were absent from Bellingham during much of the 1970s and 1980s to make way for a number of Seattle Mariners minor league teams before the Everest Aquasox were formed. The Bells returned in 1999.

Newell said the Bells players come from colleges from across the United States and Canada to play for the summer.

Currently, the Bells are 1 for 3, and the first home game in Joe Martin Stadium is June 14.

"It's baseball for two months," Newell said. "That's what they're here for."

Jeff Francis, a pitcher from the University of British Columbia, was picked in the first round of the Major League draft by the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday.

"If pro baseball is in their cards, we're not going to stop them from going that route," Newell said. "We wish him all the best."

While Francis might not stay with the Bells if he signs with the Rockies, Newell said he looks forward to helping others improve as baseball players and have a good time this summer.

Jesse Newell, a Bells infielder, said he is looking forward to the new season.

"It's fun to experience playing with new people," he said.

Nunamaker said he remembers enjoying the company of his teammates too.

"I liked all the guys," he said. "They were the greatest bunch of guys you could meet."

For schedules, statistics and other information, visit www.bellinghambells.com

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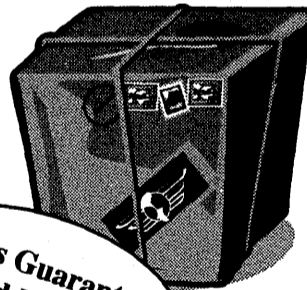
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Christian church should provide no place for gay clergy



**Christina
Tercero**

COMMENTARY

The church — which teaches the command, "If your eye causes you to sin, cut it out and cast it away," as a parable for what should happen to an immoral part of the church — has now begun to allow homosexuals to be its leaders and ministers.

The Christian church should not allow homosexuals to hold leadership or ministry positions. Such an action, as contrary as it is to the standards and commands for purity required of a leader, would be detrimental to the foundations of the Christian faith.

In Seattle this week, the Rev. Mark Williams of the Woodland Park United Methodist Church was allowed to remain a minister

even after announcing his homosexuality.

After a year-long investigation by the United Methodist Church as to whether Williams' sexual preference violated Christian leadership standards, the investigative committee unanimously decided Williams could go back to pastoring his church.

This decision brings up a huge conflict of convictions and morals throughout the Christian church.

A leader knowingly disobeying a religious standard or commandment is a recognizable inconsistency in any religion — making it hypocritical and unstable.

If the church can make its own stigmas and exceptions for acts that are considered wrong in the Bible, what is to keep it from deciding that leaders may also violate other foundational standards and still hold a position of respect?

This is slowly occurring in the Catholic church. The standard for purity in the church has been

watered down so much already many people do not see the difference between what is said to be righteous and what is considered secular.

The only difference that really stands out is the church puts on holy airs and condemns others for their ways of life while allowing the same to go on inside.

This hypocrisy turns people off completely because, while being condemned by the Church, they are not given a chance to see any alternative to the life they know. The experience often leaves them with a bitter taste in their mouths and often more emotional wounds.

Additionally, if standards are removed or chosen at whim for those in leadership positions, what makes the leaders more qualified or equipped for a position of example, responsibility, righteousness and teaching?

Nothing.

Once exceptions are made in one area of religious conviction,

more are sure to follow. As the standard of purity declines and compromise enters the Church in the name of justice, tolerance and equality, the validity of the faith will become untrustworthy and artificial.

If this compromise is allowed to continue throughout church leadership, who is to then say a minister may not also choose for himself whether infidelity or unfaithfulness should be considered moral wrongs?

In any other religion, it would be seen as foolishness to allow the leaders to participate in activities which were condemned by religious laws and fundamental teachings.

For example, a Jewish rabbi would never be allowed to enter the synagogue after violating the Mosaic law, and a Hindu or Buddhist monk would no longer be given respect after sleeping with a woman.

Such compromises severely damage the stability and legiti-

macy of any religious fundamental teaching.

Williams said he and his church were pledging themselves to every and all types of people, no matter what preferences, orientations, situations or conditions they might come from.

Such a statement appeals to the humanitarian, civil rights, equal opportunity move that is dominant in modern thought and philosophy today.

For the Church to try to fit such incompatible factors, as allowing a leader to violate the religious law as well as set the example for a congregation, is illogical.

No one could put their faith in an entity that allowed hypocrisy to run rampant throughout its leadership. Thus, the United Methodist Church should seriously rethink their latest decision, and re-evaluate the apathy with which they view religious compromise.



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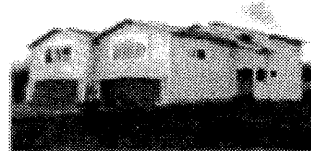
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Frontline

Newest restructuring plan best so far, but can Western afford it?

Western Provost Andrew Bodman is finally getting the idea. His latest college restructuring proposal is the best decision for each department involved. The \$375,000 price tag, however, is questionable during a budget crisis that required a 14 percent tuition increase.

His proposal calls for retaining the College of Fine and Performing Arts and creating a College of Science and Technology and a College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Bodman has decided to reallocate money for a "badly needed" vice provost to the restructuring.

While this plan seems to be the best option for Western, students will not be satisfied until more information is provided about where the additional funding will come from and how such reallocation will affect the campus.

"The need for college reorganization takes precedence over the completion of the reorganization within my own office," Bodman said.

Other money for the project would come from money put aside for an associate dean's position.

In Bodman's April proposal, he suggested combining departments from the College of Arts and Sciences with the College of Fine and Performing Arts to make a College of Science and Technology. This plan was poorly thought-out, as many students, like those in the music department, would have a dean with little or no experience in their field.

The newest proposal is a step in the right direction, but the biggest problem Bodman will face will be convincing the student body that the restructuring is a good idea. To many students, lack of interest and information has turned the restructuring into a vague representation of Western bureaucracy.

Bodman will have an uphill struggle convincing students the new college is worth \$375,000. Bodman said reallocating other school funding will provide the needed money, but many might protest using the money for a highly administrative change, instead of things like more campus lighting.

Bodman's new plan is not without merit. To keep up with Western's increasing enrollment, an additional college will eventually be necessary to meet student's needs. It also is a fair solution for music students, as the previous plan shuffled them to the outskirts of a college of humanities and social sciences.

The newest plan also keeps student interests in mind, as the College of Fine and Performing Arts has no current dean to speak out for students.

No one can deny Western is growing. Changes are needed to ensure students are provided with both a quality education and deans committed to progressive and personalized leadership. Restructuring offers a clear path to a better university but it cannot be successful without student input and support.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Paul Olund, Sonja L. Cohen, Brendan C. Manning, Alaina C. Dunn, Candace Nelson, Dian McClurg, Courtney L. Howard and Heather June Olah

The Western Front

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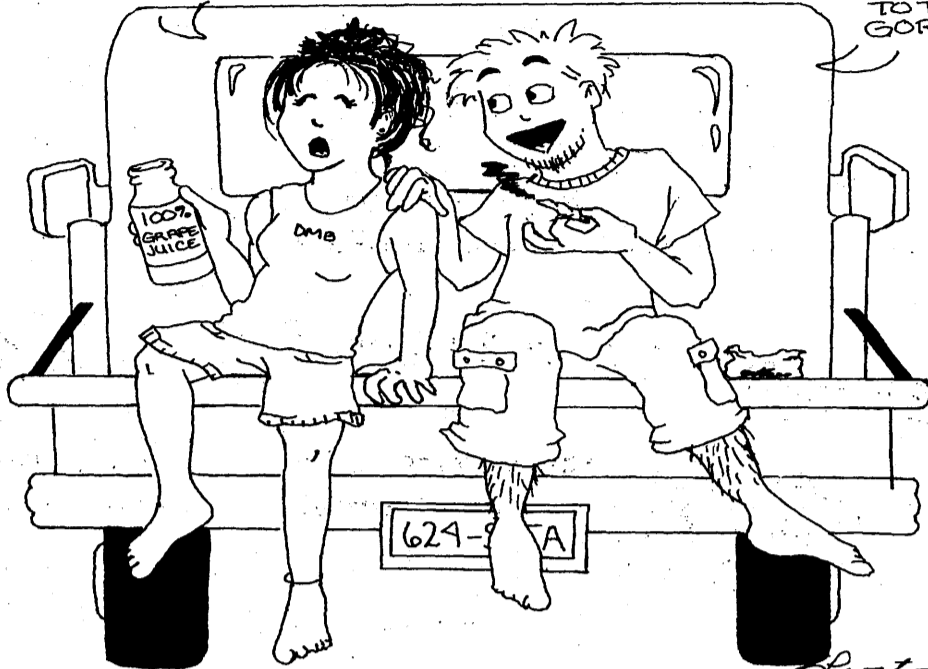
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Gorge sad place without booze



Sasha Benko

COMMENTARY

Stumbling, beer soaked bodies wander throughout the campsite chatting up friends and strangers alike, alcoholic beverages permanently locked in their hands.

This was once the scene at The Gorge Amphitheater in George, Wash. As of Memorial Day weekend, the campground no longer serves beer. It is as dry as its surroundings.

Most campers at The Gorge depend on alcohol to relieve them from the dirge and dust of the campground. Tripping through the swirling gusts of dirt is not so bad when you've swigged a few down from the Bacardi gallon and hit the beer bong at least once. Music lovers have no reason to camp there now.

"It's so damn stupid," said Seattle Pacific University senior Kevin Olson. "It's not as if I camp at The Gorge for its beauty; we just want to party."

The Gorge campground is no utopia for true campers. Lush trees, flowering shrubs and cool

bodies of water are only mirages. As a matter of fact, the only water at the campground is the crowded shower stalls at base camp.

No, The Gorge campground is more like a junk yard in a hot Californian desert. It consists of one big dirt field with prickly plots of randomly placed weed-like grass and an abundance of garbage covering the site.

The campground always has many wild and friendly people, clear skies and temperatures in the 80s. Come the morning after though, campers realize that people were only so cool with beer goggles on; the hot sun is about to suffocate them in their tent and it is definitely time for another beer.

It's just not as fun without the ice-cold beers from Styrofoam coolers, mixed drinks in blue plastic cups lined with sand or everyone's favorite: Warm kegs.

Without alcohol, not much is to be done or seen. A lack of campfires, which the campground does not permit, makes the alcohol even more necessary after night-fall. At \$35 per night per car to camp, it is no wonder concert goers are angry.

Now that the site is dry, cars are subject to random searches for alcohol.

"I didn't get searched, we

snuck the alcohol in," Western junior Brett McKinley said. "Lots of people managed to sneak in their alcohol, but it definitely wasn't as laid back and fun as usual."

Both McKinley and Olson attended the Sasquatch Festival at The Gorge Amphitheater during Memorial Day weekend.

"Cops and attendants were walking around confiscating drinks and regulating on parties," Olson said. "It was a major downer on the night. We just wanted to relax and drink our beers."

The campground will gradually lose guests, and therefore money, as the campers realize they will be denied the right to drink alcohol. Several students have mentioned they will not be returning to the campground unless allowed their precious drinks.

For those looking for other alternatives to The Gorge campground, several surrounding overnight spots, such as Lake Quincy, Moses Lake, Vantage and Ellensburg, provide camping mostly at no cost.

If one is willing to drive 20 minutes to the amphitheater,

See GORGE, Page 15

Sept. 11 hindsight is 20/20



Mike Baab

COMMENTARY

Nearly nine months after the Sept. 11 attacks terrified the nation into an inspirational and often cloying spirit of unity, the personal attacks, criticism and partisan badgering that made the 90s such a guilty pleasure are finally back.

President George W. Bush, the FBI and the CIA have been under the media's steamroller in the past few weeks for their role in what U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., called a "massive

failure" of intelligence.

As more pre-Sept. 11 intelligence is uncovered, the government is being held responsible for not keeping the hijackers on the ground.

This is a perfect example of 20/20 hindsight. The president did not know enough before the attacks to stop them. Even with some sloppy work on the part of the government, the Sept. 11 attacks could not have been foreseen or prevented.

Imagine the world before Sept. 11: The United States seemed impregnable, and Osama bin Laden was just a name that popped up in the boring sections of the New York Times or in the occasional "Jeopardy!" question.

Government agencies could never have foreseen the attack because before Sept. 11, the al Qaeda threat was simply one of the hundreds the United States was under every day.

To expect the government to take drastic action based on the information they had is absurd. The CIA knew a suspected terrorist was taking flight lessons in Arizona. It is easy to look at that fact now and see it as a red flag, but at the time, it was simply something a little dubious.

The government cannot be expected to arrest, detain or interrogate someone just because they are learning how to fly.

Furthermore, nothing less See HINDSIGHT, Page 15

Hindsight: Bush, FBI could not have prevented Sept. 11th terrorism

Continued from Page 14

than a massive change in policy would have been necessary to prevent the attacks.

Those who say Bush should have tightened security at airports after he received word Osama bin Laden was planning to hijack planes are forgetting the terrorists never broke the law until they got out of their seats and took over the planes

that morning.

The terrorists were all flying under their real names, and carrying nothing that was prohibited on flights at the time.

For Bush, or anyone, to prevent the attacks, the rules at every airport in the country would have to be overhauled dramatically.

One of the things that gave the hijackers so much power

over the passengers on the flights was that they said they had a bomb on board.

They still could have used bomb threats and old fashioned brute force to take control of the jets, even if they had not snuck sharp objects onto the flight with them.

Those who criticize the government's actions see the Sept. 11 warnings as a loud, flashing

siren that something was amiss. The truth is the only portent of the attacks was a sprinkling of cautious memos a few weeks before the attacks.

If the government starts making drastic policy changes because of some exploratory memos, then Americans should fear the bureaucracy more than the terrorists.

Gorge: Concerts more entertaining while intoxicated

Continued from Page 14

they can spend the night at "The Dunes" near Vantage, enjoying a gigantic bonfire, lots of fellow wasted campers and no cops.

A dry Gorge is a sober Gorge. One huge expanse of leveled dirt and dust, lacking in shade and water, was never the ideal campground.

Now campers are being deprived of their only source of relief from the desolate, filthy landmass called a campsite.

Without alcohol, the future looks bleak. Officials of The Gorge campground need to rethink their restriction and bring alcohol back.



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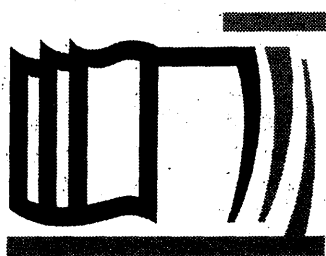
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